

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. **(Canceled)**

2. **(Currently Amended)** A fuel cell comprising a tubular casing, an electrolyte layer received in said tubular casing, ~~and a pair of gas diffusion electrodes interposing~~ a first gas diffusion electrode completely defining a fuel gas passage and a second gas diffusion electrode completely defining an oxidizing gas passage, wherein said first and second gas diffusion electrodes interpose said electrolyte layer ~~and defining a fuel gas passage and an oxidizing gas passage, respectively, wherein:~~

said first and second gas diffusion electrodes each comprise ~~each gas diffusion electrode comprises~~ a plurality of layers of material stacked in the axial direction of said tubular casing, wherein said fuel and oxidizing gas passages, which extend in the axial direction, each have a non-uniform diameter and

said first ~~each~~ gas diffusion electrode extends continuously along ~~its associated~~ said fuel gas passage; and

said second gas diffusion electrode extends continuously along said oxidizing gas passage, and

wherein said fuel and oxidizing gas passages have a passageway length that are equal to each other.

3. **(Previously Presented)** A fuel cell according to claim 2, wherein said tubular casing also comprises a plurality of layers of material therefore stacked in the axial direction of said tubular casing.

4. **(Original)** A fuel cell according to claim 3, wherein said material for said tubular casing is same as said material for said electrolyte layer.

5. **(Original)** A fuel cell according to claim 4, wherein said gas passages are defined by separating an interior of said tubular casing with said electrolyte layer and said gas diffusion electrodes.

Claims 6-10. **(Canceled)**.

11. **(Previously Presented)** A fuel cell according to claim 2, wherein neighboring layers of material of said plurality of layers of material are mis-registered relative to each other to form a step in a respective one of said fuel gas passage and said oxidizing gas passage.

12. **(Previously Presented)** A fuel cell according to claim 2, wherein at least one of said fuel gas passage and said oxidizing gas passage becomes progressively narrower in a direction from an upstream end toward a downstream end.

13. **(New)** A fuel cell comprising a tubular casing, an electrolyte layer received in said tubular casing, and a pair of gas diffusion electrodes interposing said electrolyte layer and defining a fuel gas passage and an oxidizing gas passage, respectively, wherein:

each gas diffusion electrode comprises a plurality of layers of material stacked in the axial direction of said tubular casing;

each gas diffusion electrode extends continuously along its associated gas passage; and

said tubular casing and said electrolyte layer are integrally formed by a same material.